

REMARKS

Examiner Kin Chan Chen is thanked for his examination of the subject Patent Application.

Claim Status

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-21, 23, 25-27 and 28-32 remain in this application. Claims 8, 10, 22 and 24 had been previously cancelled. New Claims 28-32 had been previously added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 9, 23 and 28-32 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. (US 6,042,999) in view of Wang et al. (US 6,057,239) is respectfully requested based on the following prior art disqualification:

35 USC 103 (c) statement

Application no. 09/867,563 and US Patent 6,042,999 were, at the time the invention of Application 09/867,563 was made, commonly owned by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing company, Hsinchu, Taiwan.

CONCLUSION

We have reviewed the related art references made of record mentioned by Examiner Chen and none of these suggest the present claimed

TSMC 00-151 Application no. 09/867,563

invention in light of the commonly owned prior art.

In light of the above arguments, it is suggested that the Claims clearly describes the invention. Claims 9, 23 and 28-32 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance along with Claims 1-7, 11-21 and 25-27.

Allowance of all claims is therefore respectfully requested.

It is requested that should Examiner Chen not find that the Claims are now Allowable that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney at 845-452-5863 to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Stephen B Ackerman, Reg. No. 37,761